

## Current Economic Programs Printed Survey Results: by the *State Tax Collection Survey Statistics Users* Respondent Base

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U.S. Census Bureau  
Current Economic Statistics User Survey

OMB CQM-26 (Rev.5/5/98)

### I. DATA CONTENT

Your answers identifying the survey data you use will help us understand our users' patterns of data use.

1. Which Current Economic Statistics from the Census Bureau do you use? (Mark all that apply.)

#### (1) Monthly

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1.8%;	1	None
67.9%;	38	Retail Sales
51.8%;	29	Wholesale Trade
53.6%;	30	Manufacturing/Trade Inventory/Sales
71.4%;	40	Housing Starts
85.7%;	48	Building Permits
67.9%;	38	New Home Sales
64.3%;	36	Value of New Construction Put in Place
41.1%;	23	Housing Completions
39.3%;	22	Expenditures for Residential Improvements
48.2%;	27	New Residential Construction
33.9%;	19	New Mobile Home Placements
50.0%;	28	Monthly Imports and Exports
57.1%;	32	Current Industrial Reports
57.1%;	32	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, Orders

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Replies 56; Forms 61

#### (2) Quarterly

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54.1%;	20	Quarterly Financial Report
73.0%;	27	Current Industrial Reports
16.2%;	6	Federal Assistance Awards Data System
43.2%;	16	Quarterly Tax Survey
21.6%;	8	Quarterly Public Employee Retirement

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Replies 37; Forms 61

#### (3) Annual

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75.4%;	46	Annual Retail Trade
62.3%;	38	Annual (Wholesale) Trade
50.8%;	31	Annual Survey of Communications
59.0%;	36	Transportation Annual Survey
63.9%;	39	Service Annual Survey
88.5%;	54	County Business Patterns

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62.3%;	38	ZIP Code Business Patterns
62.3%;	38	Statistics of U.S. Businesses
45.9%;	28	Characteristics of New Housing
70.5%;	43	Annual Building Permits
45.9%;	28	New Residential Construction in Selected Metropolitan Areas
50.8%;	31	Annual Capital Expenditures
80.3%;	49	Annual Survey of Manufactures
54.1%;	33	Current Industrial Reports
36.1%;	22	Research and Development Survey
45.9%;	28	Plant Capacity Utilization
37.7%;	23	Education Finance Survey
100.0%;	61	State Tax Collection Survey
31.1%;	19	Annual Public Employee Retirement
54.1%;	33	Annual Survey of Public Employment
52.5%;	32	Consolidated Federal Funds Report
83.6%;	51	State Government Finances
65.6%;	40	Annual Imports and Exports

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Replies 61; Forms 61

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## II. DATA DELIVERY

The Census Bureau is considering use of the Internet as the primary method of data delivery. By completing the following questions, you will help us retain the most essential delivery formats and design the best possible data delivery service.

(4) 2. How do you receive current economic data now? (Mark all that apply.)

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93.4%;	57	Printed Publications	26.2%;	16	Direct (E-mail) delivery
88.5%;	54	World Wide Web (Internet)	16.4%;	10	FAX
68.9%;	42	CD-ROMs	1.6%;	1	Regular mail
32.8%;	20	Diskettes	8.2%;	5	Other

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Replies 61; Forms 61

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- Electronic "Bulletin Boards"
  - Check values by telephone
  - also use microfiche in some cases.
  - Tape, Cartridge
  - CD Rom & Publications in Library
  - building permits printout
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(5) 3. What format do you PREFER when downloading data for further manipulation? (Mark all that apply.)

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72.1%;	44	Spreadsheet (e.g., wkl, xls, etc...)
41.0%;	25	ASCII delimited
36.1%;	22	Database (e.g., dbf, mdb, etc...)
27.9%;	17	ASCII flat files
13.1%;	8	Retrieve from print or screen and enter manually
11.5%;	7	Do not manipulate data
3.3%;	2	Other

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Replies 61; Forms 61

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- Sas data sets
  - download from [www.Census.gov](http://www.Census.gov)

4. What capabilities do you want on the Census Internet site? (For each line, indicate the degree of your preferences, from 5 [high] to 1 [low].)

(6) a. Direct (E-mail) delivery:

34.0%;	18	5	18.9%;	10	3	15.1%;	8	1
15.1%;	8	4	7.5%;	4	2	9.4%;	5	Don't know

Replies 53; Forms 61

(7) b. E-mail notification:

50.9%;	28	5	18.2%;	10	3	7.3%;	4	1
7.3%;	4	4	10.9%;	6	2	5.5%;	3	Don't know

Replies 55; Forms 61

(8) c. Retrieve/display to screen:

64.9%;	37	5	12.3%;	7	3	5.3%;	3	1
10.5%;	6	4	1.8%;	1	2	5.3%;	3	Don't know

Replies 57; Forms 61

(9) d. Search:

77.6%;	45	5	8.6%;	5	3	0.0%;	0	1
10.3%;	6	4	1.7%;	1	2	1.7%;	1	Don't know

Replies 58; Forms 61

(10) e. Download complete data sets:

78.2%;	43	5	7.3%;	4	3	1.8%;	1	1
10.9%;	6	4	0.0%;	0	2	1.8%;	1	Don't know

Replies 55; Forms 61

(11) f. Download selected data:

81.4%;	48	5	6.8%;	4	3	1.7%;	1	1
6.8%;	4	4	1.7%;	1	2	1.7%;	1	Don't know

Replies 59; Forms 61

(12) g. Software help/tutorials:

24.1%;	13	5	18.5%;	10	3	13.0%;	7	1
25.9%;	14	4	11.1%;	6	2	7.4%;	4	Don't know

Replies 54; Forms 61

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(13) h. Publication-quality printing:

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30.2%;	16	5	22.6%;	12	3	5.7%;	3	1
26.4%;	14	4	11.3%;	6	2	3.8%;	2	Don't know

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Replies 53; Forms 61

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(14) i. Charts and graphs:

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28.1%;	16	5	19.3%;	11	3	10.5%;	6	1
22.8%;	13	4	14.0%;	8	2	5.3%;	3	Don't know

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Replies 57; Forms 61

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(15) j. Geographic maps:

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32.1%;	18	5	14.3%;	8	3	8.9%;	5	1
21.4%;	12	4	14.3%;	8	2	8.9%;	5	Don't know

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Replies 56; Forms 61

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(16) k. Other, please specify:

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66.7%;	2	electronic bulletin board	33.3%;	1	Other
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Replies 3; Forms 61

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- ACROBAT FILES, which you may include in item h.
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(17) l. Electronic Bulletin Board (To collect write-ins)

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0.0%;	0	5	0.0%;	0	3	0.0%;	0	1
0.0%;	0	4	100.0%;	1	2	0.0%;	0	Don't know

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Replies 1; Forms 61

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### III. DATA USAGE

Your answers describing how you use the data will help us design the most effective Current Economic Statistics retrieval tool.

(18) 5. Do you combine/compare/merge data from more than one source listed in Question 1?

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16.9%;	10	No	83.1%;	49	Yes
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Replies 59; Forms 61

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(19) 6. What time periods do you consider when using these data? (Mark X all that apply.)

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75.0%;	45	5+ years	53.3%;	32	trends up to 1 year
71.7%;	43	trends up to 5 years	0.0%;	0	Other
66.7%;	40	latest 1 or 2 periods			

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Replies 60; Forms 61

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(20) 7. How do you use the data? (Mark all that apply.)

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60.3%;	35	Create value-added products/services
58.6%;	34	Perform patron/client inquiries
25.9%;	15	Republish in newspaper/journal
24.1%;	14	Store reports/printouts for archival purposes
15.5%;	9	Inform marketing decisions
13.8%;	8	Inform investment decisions
10.3%;	6	Locate new sites
0.0%;	0	Other

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Replies 58; Forms 61

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- [none]
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(21) 8. What explanatory information do you consult when using these data? (Mark all that apply.)

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86.2%;	50	Definition of terms
81.0%;	47	Narrative text describing survey results
65.5%;	38	Sampling and estimation methodology
53.4%;	31	Survey design
3.4%;	2	None
3.4%;	2	Other

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Replies 58; Forms 61

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- Comparisons to earlier surveys and/or similar data from other agencies--e.g. census to BEA in one estimates.
  - Econometrics Analysis
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(22) 9. Do you have any pressing data or information needs that are not currently being met?

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- Value of the U.S. apparel production reported in the CIR - Need URGENTLY!!
- Retail sales for Central Business Districts; zip code retail sales, manufacturers, wholesale, etc; zip code housing data including rent and home prices; SIC business from zip codes.
- Information on nonresidential construction.
- MCD Business Patterns, Massachusetts is doing away with county government, MCD income estimates.
- The availability of Residential and Commercial Building Permit Data.
- I'd love to see employment data by SIC based on place of residence. Also wish for reconciliation between RIMS, SIC, & NAICS.
- Number of Mobile Homes & Value of, by state, on a monthly basis. (Currently only published annually) -- Also, by county, if possible.
- 1) Monthly building permits by state. 2) Retail sales by states & MSA's.
- Non-residential building permits data and value of new non-residential construction part in place.
- Yes--Commercial building permits--Bring them back now!!!
- Resume geographic estimates of retail sales.
- Current input-output reports; 5 yrs. is too old!
- YES! Bring back non-residential state/local permits authorized! This was a severe loss for interpreting local economic trends. Also, more geographic detail, more frequently.
- More frequent substate mtg. stats (annual survey is state wide only)
- Household Expenditure Data at State Level.
- Would like Government Finance series in print form.
- Place and regional economic data sets in relation to population/race trends.
- Monthly exports by state's origin of productions by product. (highly disaggregated). Monthly each states' imports by county of origin by product.
- Crime--not all areas of the U.S. participate in their state uniform crime reports program, so it

- becomes difficult to make informed decisions.
- Median income and poverty tables are not in spreadsheet form (they one were).
- Geographic Area Retail Sales
- Non-residential construction data outside California! Bring it back!
- small area data
- sub-national retail trade

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#### IV. INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION ISSUES

We will soon begin restructuring the Current Economic Surveys based on the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Your answers will help us ensure that these surveys continue to provide the economic information needed by markets, policy makers, and business people. For more information on NAICS, see the Bureau's web site: <http://www.census.gov/NAICS>.

(24) 10. At what levels of detail do you MOST FREQUENTLY USE industry data classified by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)? (Mark all that apply.)

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68.4%;	39	4-digit industries (or maximum detail I can get)
64.9%;	37	2-digit major groups
59.6%;	34	Sector totals (SIC division); e.g., Manufacturing or Retail Trade
43.9%;	25	3-digit industry groups
3.5%;	2	NA (don't use SIC-based data)
0.0%;	0	Other

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Replies 57; Forms 61

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- [none]
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(25) 11. Were you aware that the SIC system is being replaced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)?

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15.5%;	9	I was unaware of this
24.1%;	14	I am partially aware, but lack details
60.3%;	35	I am aware and understand some implications

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Replies 58; Forms 61

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12. Would you like to receive more information about NAICS?

(26) Yes, please send me - (Mark all that apply)

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91.4%;	32	A brochure that explains NAICS	34.3%;	12	Conference announcements
71.4%;	25	NAICS implementation plans	5.7%;	2	Other

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Replies 35; Forms 61

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- A copy
  - Disaggregate SIC for each sector.
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(27) No Thanks -

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73.9%;	17	I will check the Census Bureau's web site ( <a href="http://www.census.gov/naics">www.census.gov/naics</a> )
26.1%;	6	I don't need more information about NAICS

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Replies 23; Forms 61

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#### V. USER PROFILE

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Please tell us about yourself so we may serve you better.

(28) 13. Type of organization.

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35.0%;	21	Government	3.3%;	2	Media
25.0%;	15	Academic/Research	1.7%;	1	Individual
25.0%;	15	Business	1.7%;	1	Library
5.0%;	3	Association	3.3%;	2	Other

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Replies 60; Forms 61

- non-profit economic development org.
- Library (University

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(29) 14. Do you work in your organization's library?

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32.2%;	19	Yes	67.8%;	40	No
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Replies 59; Forms 61

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(30) 15. What is your affiliation with the Census Bureau?

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48.3%;	29	None	5.0%;	3	Census Information Center
26.7%;	16	State Data Center	15.0%;	9	Other
5.0%;	3	Business/Industry Data Center			

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Replies 60; Forms 61

- Philadelphia Regional Office
- Richmond Public Library, BST Dept. 101 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219
- Cooperator in disseminating permits authorized data
- Depository
- Affiliate Data Center
- Congress
- Data use.
- GPO Depository
- Affiliate

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(35) 20. May we contact you to follow up on this questionnaire?

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87.5%;	49	Yes	12.5%;	7	No
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Replies 56; Forms 61

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(36) Question 21. Remarks:

- A published paper version should always be made available for purchase to the public. Information being available on the internet is nice, yet it is a completely different animal than having a hard copy version of the information. An example: I can receive my new off the internet, but I still prefer to get my newspaper in the morning for reading at my leisure away from a computer.
- Census bureau data is always helpful--the data you provide enhances our publication and enables readers to make informal business decisions.
- Thanks for asking!
- I prefer e-mail contacts rather than phone, as I am frequently not available at my phone for extended periods.
- We serve a varied clientele (academic, business, government, and private citizens) and work across many subject. Census data are absolutely vital to us. Our biggest need is for more

- geographic area detail more frequently (state, county, place, if possible). Users often do not understand the 5 yr. gaps and lag time for the major Economic Surveys that offer such detail, much less the 10 yr. decennial cycle. The internet is a great help in speeding "publication", but we find access is not yet universal. We still download and print entire documents for guide reference and historical purposes. I am concerned about just how long the electronic medi will remain accurate and usable as technology changes. How will the Bureau deal with these problems?
- We look forward to working with you on the upcoming Census.
- I use dat available by MSA, county and sub-county data not available at these levels is generally not applicable to the work we do. In a (very) few cases (like state and local gov't finances) we use state level data.
- - Census should also provide information on Agriculture sector.
- Provide up to date GSP data for status by digit SIC.
- Provide "Green GSP" data.
- The Web site is great, but it is sometimes difficult to quickly find the information I'm seeking. Also, I am mystified by your downloading parameters. Things should be in dbf format, which is more universally accessible to database managers than mdb.
- Census is always quick and dependable. Great job!
- We are in the site selection/economic development function. Census data is absolutely crucial to our function, especially the ability to compare areas.
- We love the Census Bureau! Clear publications indices and ease of search engines on the Internet site are very important to us. Also, choice of how to download data is good, not all users need or can use spreadsheet software.

Figure 1: